

The Herald and News.

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Teachers' Column.

The Teacher Should Study.

In order to be successful in any profession or undertaking there must be an untiring effort to attain to something higher. There is no spot for a resting place; no point at which we can stop and say our work is done, that we are perfect. The lawyer, having completed his course at a law school, is not yet a master of law. He has years of hard work before he is thorough in his profession.

The minister, with his course in theology completed, is not yet acquainted fully with Holy Writ. He is yet a child, so to speak, in the work. The teacher, armed with his first grade certificate, has only begun to learn, and is entirely ignorant of the foundation of successful instruction.

Without study, there is for this latter class, such a thing as becoming ignorant by experience. We often hear a teacher highly recommended because he has been engaged in teaching a number of years. This is no test as to his efficiency, for the oldest teacher is not always the best. It would be better to risk a young person with zeal and earnestness, and a desire to learn and improve than one with years of experience without any progress about him.

A live teacher will study his text books, know them from beginning to end, and be able to answer any question that may arise during a recitation. A dead one will be continually puzzled to answer the simplest questions.

The teachers should study not only text books, but also the method given by the best educators. We can profit from the hard and incessant work of others. We can learn from books and educational journals the best and true methods of teaching as given by our best men and women. We have the opportunity and why not take advantage of it? With all the means before us, then, if we fail it is our own fault. We can blame no one else.

The teacher who improves himself, and does not think that he is already perfect will always be in demand.

Teaching Addition.

I have had considerable trouble in teaching simple addition to children who have first been taught in other schools. They seem determined to count on their fingers. I have had little trouble, however, in teaching numbers to little ones whom I have taught from the beginning of their school-days. This is my way of teaching numbers to beginners: I first teach them to make all the figures, I then teach them to add from 1 to 10, arranging the figures in various ways, and at the same time using familiar objects for the counting. I often require them to count up their own little property, for example, their chickens, or other pets. After teaching them to add together readily the numbers below 12, I teach them this: 12 and 2 make 14, 12 and 2 make 14, 22 and 2 make 24, 32 and 2 make 34, and so on, reasoning all the time from their knowledge that 2 and 2 make 4; 4 and 4 make 8, 14 and 4 make 18, all the time reasoning from the fact that 4 and 4 make 8. I soon begin to add higher numbers: thus 6 and 6 make 12, 16 and 6 make 22, 26 and 6 make 32, 36 and 6 make 42, and so on, reasoning by 6 on the right each time. If 9 and 9 make 18, 19 and 9 make 28, 29 and 9 make 38, 39 and 9 make 48, and so on, going to a number expressed by 6 on the right each time. I have for six years pursued this method of teaching numbers, and I think it is successful.

SARAH L. WALTERS.

Reading or Spelling First?

Many teachers think that the child should know the alphabet, and be able to spell before he commences reading. Others think that he should have his reader first. We would be glad if some one, an advocate of either method, would inform us through the column which is best and why. This is a question of no little importance.

Maps.

Several days ago we met two gentlemen traveling in the interest of Watts & Adams' Maps of South Carolina. They are the best we have yet seen and it would be well for every teacher to have one in his school room. A good teacher can take a map and teach beginners more about geography in three months than he could with a dry text book in six. Every teacher should strive to have a map of South Carolina in the school.

No One Knows How to Work Like a Beaver.

How these dams are built—whether one plans and "bees the job," allotting the work and directing by whom and how it is to be done, or whether each works under its own direction and impulse, a common instinct giving a common result; whether they co-operate or work independently; how they begin and how they finish—is believed to be unknown. The investigation of this interesting question is hedged about with difficulties. Beavers work only at night, accomplishing three times more during a dark rainy night than under the light of a full moon. It seems as though with darkness came a sense of personal security which enabled them to devote every energy to the work in hand.

Ayer's Sarsaparilla is prescribed and recommended by eminent physicians, and is taken with perfect safety by old and young. Its cleansing and vitalizing effects are sure and speedy, and it is universally conceded to be the most effective of all blood purifiers.

Learning to Read.

[From the Standard.]

Two things are necessary in learning to read; these are how to read, and what to read. The former, in various ways, receives a good deal of attention. Does the latter? In school or in the family do children or young people learn to read in a way to include all that should be meant in that familiar phrase? Elocutionists assume to teach how to read. Who teaches what to read? Is it not the truth that, in general, this is a branch of education which is pretty much left to take care of itself, amidst chances and perils of the time?

This matter is the more serious in view of the fact, not only that everybody reads, but also that there is every sort of thing to be read. It would be difficult to name any species of literature, from the very good to the very bad, which may not be found somewhere in the immense outflow from the press of this marvelous age. The amount of production, in this kind, is most amazing. In no department of human industry is there more of activity, or the product more immense. One may find in tables of statistics figures to give some idea of the world's product in agriculture, in manufactures, in the mechanic arts. So far as we are aware, no attempt has yet been made to measure the amount of literary product, either in books, in magazine, in newspapers, or in that nondescript sort which defies description. One can scarcely turn his eye around without finding "something to read." You go to church and it lies in your power. You try to run away from all reading as from all business, and the book-agent finds you on the cars. You try the privacy of home and it meets you on the door-step. You flee to the mountains and the new-boy with his daily paper follows you there. If you were to go to sea in a diving-bell, we almost prophesy that a "news-stand," with its supply of papers and trashy novels, would be found at the bottom of the ocean. Is it wise for one to leave himself at the mercy of all this infinite miscellany; his mind to become as chaotic and his knowledge as much a jumble of good and bad, worthless and worthy?

This is a matter of especial importance to young people, and it is with reference to them that we are in the main writing this article. The young person, desirous of acting rightly in this matter, may set out with one fact as a reliable one, namely, that there is great abundance of good reading. England and America have reason to be proud of their literature, alike for its superiority simply as such, and for its wholesomeness in every best point of view. In every department of literature, and in all those varieties which tend to enliven one's reading, to quicken intelligence, to broaden the literary sympathy, and to cultivate what is best in one's mind and heart, the literature of the English-speaking nations is unequalled. What we may say of this cannot be said of the French, the German, the Italian, in fact any other language or literature whatsoever. From the time when England began to have a literature until now, from Chaucer to Tennyson and Longfellow, from Philip Sidney to Irving, from Jeremy Taylor to Diddon or MacLaren, the centuries have been enriched by an authoring which combines all that is most noble in manly and Christian character. Why should a young American "fatten on garbage" with such a supply of choicest intellectual viands? Why consent to be emasculated in intellect and morals by poisonous trash in literature, when it is so easy to be well read and cultured in all that is best?

Then it is to be borne in mind that the reading habit does almost more than anything else to form like the mind and the character. If there be no reading habit at all, that itself is bad enough. Yet, there is even in that case a certain ground for encouragement, since in the case of such a person, should a taste for reading some day be created, there is at least a fair field for that which is good in a mind which is thus not as yet preoccupied with the bad. Upon the other hand, a vitiated habit in anything else, and it is in this particular worse than any other that it is so little in a way to be counteracted by better influences. The inveterate novel-reader can even fix the attention upon only that which appeals to the imagination, much less become interested in it. And all that does appeal for that reason alone is revealed in a meal of French slops or for such a one just as palatable as a wholesome English dish; Zola is as welcome as Thackeray or Irving; all that is sought is excitement, and whatever "comes to" that "net" is sure to be "fish."

Besides, to be able to know and to value a good book, or to detect and detect a bad one, is a real accomplishment. In these days a person of intelligence should be ashamed not to have an intelligent estimate of what is best in the literature of his own language. He should be as unwilling not to know what to read, as not to know how to read.

We are quite sure that what we are here saying will appeal to very many who are charged with the care of young people, either their own children, or those of others. The reading that comes into the family is a matter of as much consequence as almost anything else that can be named. Too much restriction perhaps, be avoided; for nothing in this connection can well be worse than that practice of secret reading in books and papers known to be disapproved by parents or teachers, into which young people may be driven by a surveillance too severe. The dishonesty of the thing is bad in itself, while such secrecy is an open door of opportunity for all that is bad and worst. There should be perfect frankness, and a good understanding, all round, in these matters, and it will facilitate this if some margin of freedom be allowed in the direction of that more imaginative literature which is so natural for young people to love. But there are ways in which there may be judicious guidance so managed as not to alienate and still to achieve its end. Let the family table be supplied with books which are both attractive and good. Let care be exercised as to the kind of periodical literature which

finds its way to the same table. Let it not be assumed that any kind of a secular paper is sure to be good which advocates one's own politics, nor any sort of a religious weekly sufficient which carries the denominational flag in its head-lines. Above all, shut the door against the Sunday paper. There is one remedy for the enormous perils which come in the train of this pernicious change in American journalism; that is, for the families in which the Sunday edition of the *Literary Digest* and "honorable" to refuse all dealings with that which so surely tends to make it neither the one nor the other, and indeed to destroy it altogether.

TO SECURE CO-OPERATION.

Iowa Farmers Seeking to Dispose with Middlemen.

[From the New York Times.]
The mass meeting of the Iowa Farmers' Alliance held here today for the purpose of discussing the extension of the system of co-operative purchasing of supplies, and the distribution of the same, resulted in the adoption of a resolution, which was carried by a large majority, to the effect that the Alliance should carry on a systematic dealing in groceries, flour, and agricultural implements, buying of the jobbing houses or manufacturers and selling to the farmers direct, thus securing the largest return for the farmer, and the lowest cost for the consumer. The present loose organization of the Alliance makes it impossible to properly guard the commercial transactions, and this sometimes leads to difficulty in securing goods. The dealers in goods combine and refuse to sell to the Alliance, and thus cut off the profits to jobbers and retail dealers. A gentleman from Dakota told about the operation of the purchasing system at that Territory. 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